

Appl. No. 10/821,720
Amendment dated July 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed March 31, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6:

This invention is a Continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/097,030 entitled "Baseball Style Hat with Size Adjustment", filed 12 March 2002 now U.S. Patent 6,718,557 and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 19:

In recent years the "one-hat-fits-all" baseball hat has become very popular. An adjustment mechanism, such as a pair of plastic straps or Velcro® hook and loop straps, one a hook strap and the other a loop strap, are affixed at the back of the cap. The hat size is adjusted by altering the circumference of the crown by changing the position of the adjustment mechanism.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 3 line 9:

The two part adjustment clasp can be a pair of straight or curved plastic straps, one having male connector portions and the other female connector portions, of the type well known in baseball style hats. The male-female connectors can be closer and/or narrower than commonly used in these kinds of hats. Alternately, the adjustment clasp can be a pair of Velcro® hook and loop straps, a textile strap with a buckle, hooks, screws, pins, clips, knots or similar fastener or even adhesive or elastic straps, also well known in the art.

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In the preferred embodiment the adjustment clasps include a flap is formed which covers, or is at or above the temple of the crown where the edges of the visor attach to the crown. The flap may be attached along the seam of a triangular piece forming the crown where the triangular piece meets near the edge of the visor. The flap has Velcro® hooks or loops on its underside which mates with Velcro® hooks or loops attached on the bottom of the temple portion of the crown. The flap may be of any shape including that of a logo or trademark. A trademark or logo may also be affixed to the flap.

Replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 4:

Fig. 4 shows another embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment the clasp 30, located at the temple of the crown generally where the edge of visor 14 attaches to the crown comprises first and second Velcro® hook and loop straps 42 and 44, with one being the hook strap and the other the loop strap. The circumference of the hat, and hence its size, is adjusted by the amount of overlap of the straps 42 and 44.

Fig. 4 also illustrates another feature of the invention. One or more Velcro® hook and loop strips or patches 46 and 48 may be located along the flap 34 and adjacent flap 35. These strips or patches allow the detachable sections to be joined together once the adjustment clasp has been adjusted for the user. Velcro® hook and loop strips or patches 42 and 44 need not be rectilinear. They can be made to define a circle, or square or any desired geometry.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 20:

In this embodiment, fold 34 of the crown triangle 36 extends all the way to the apex 22. Velcro® hook and loop strips 58 and 60 provide a mating surface for the flap 34 and the adjacent crown triangular section. Note that the width of the

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connectors 52 and 54 are preferably narrower than the single set of connectors typically found in the "one fits all" type of hat. Also, the embedded ends of connectors 52 and 54 can also be narrower than the connector portions. It should be understood that other clasps or adjustment mechanisms can be employed, as mentioned in the summary of the invention. Also, while keeping the adjustment clasps hidden is preferred, they may be provided on the outside of the crown where they are visible.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 29:

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs 6A and 6B. In Fig. 6, the adjustment mechanism 60 includes a first pair of connectors, 62 and 64, which are attached to the inside flap 34 of temple triangle 36 and to the front portion 16 above the visor 14, respectively. A second pair of the same connectors 62 (not shown) and 64, are provided on the other side of the hat 10. Here mating connectors 64 are attached to the outside of the front portion 16 of hat 10 above the visor 14. For example, connectors 64 can be the male connectors and connectors 62 the female connectors or vice-versa. Connectors 62 and 64 can be made of, plastic, metal, textile, elastic, adhesive, Velcro® hooks and loops or can be a strap and buckle or hook arrangement. As explained above, if plastic, textile, metal, adhesive, elastic or Velcro® hooks and loops is used they can define any geometry and is not limited to a strap. For example, the receiving plastic, textile, metal, adhesive, elastic or Velcro® hooks and loops could be round or square or have any desired geometry for easy attachment of strap 62. It should be understood that other clasps or adjustment mechanisms can be employed, as mentioned in the summary of the invention.

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Replace the two paragraphs beginning at p. 7, line 12:

Fig 6B is similar to the embodiment of Fig. 6A except that instead of two separate connectors 64, a single plastic, textile, metal, elastic, adhesive or Velcro® hook and loop strip 66 is embedded in the front portion of the hat 10 along the brim of the hat where the visor 14 is joined. The central area 68 is enclosed in fabric at the front portion 16. Ends 70 and 72 adjustably engage the pair of connectors 62. Of course, other types of adjustment clasps can be used.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs 7A, 7B, and 7C. Here the adjustment clasp 80 includes a strap 82, having a Velcro® hoops and loops underside 83, which is attached to the outside of the crown along the circumference 24. The distal end 84 of strap 82 also extends along the circumference 24 of the crown, where the visor 14 joins the crown. Distal end 84 adjustably attaches to a Velcro® hoop and loop mating patch 86 located on the front portion just above the visor. Of course, the visor can be located at the rear side of the hat and the Velcro® hoop and loop patch 86 can have any desired geometry suitable for mating with Velcro® hoops and loops 83 on distal end 84.

Replace the three paragraphs beginning at page 8, line 2:

Another adjustment clasp embodiment 90 is shown in Figs. 8A & 8B. Adjustment clasp 90 includes a flap 92 secured along or near one edge at the seam between the front portion 16 and the panel or triangular portion 20 above the temple where the edge of the visor 14 meets the crown. The underside of distal end 96 is provided with a Velcro® hoop and loop patch (not shown) which adjustably engages a mating Velcro® hoop and loop patch 98 located on the temple portion 20. Once again, the Velcro® hoop and loop patch 98 can be of any geometric shape. Also, flap 92 and/or clasp 90, although shown her as being triangular, can have any geometric shape such as a truncated triangle, oval or

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rectangle or any desired geometry suitable for mating the Velcro® hoop and loop patch and the portion 20. Clasp 90 and/or flap 94 can also be made to have the shape of a logo, trademark or trade name. Additionally, a logo, a trademark or a trade name can be provided or stitched on the surface of clasp 90/94.

Figures 9A and 9B show another embodiment of an adjustable hat 10, having an adjustment mechanism 100. Here, the triangular portion 20 forms a flap 102 which has one part of a Velcro® hoop and loop attachment (not show) along its underside. Flap 102 mates with a Velcro® hoop and loop patch 104 affixed to a front portion 16 above the bill 14. In other words, the edge of flap 102 lies along the seam between triangles 20 at or above where the visor edges 14 attach to the crown. Of course, the visor can be located at the rear side of the hat and the patch 104 can have other geometric shapes.

Figures 10A and 10B show yet another embodiment of an adjustable hat 10 having an adjustable clasp 110. Adjustable clasp 110 includes a flap 112 which is attached at or near the seam between the front portion 16 and a temple triangle or panel 36 at or near where the edge of visor 14 attaches to the crown. ~~crown~~. Flap 112 has a truncated triangular configuration, but it may be any desired shape, such as winged shaped, triangle, oval or rectangle or any desired geometry, suitable for mating the Velcro® patches and the portion 20. Flap 112 can have a geometry which corresponds to a logo, trademark or trade name or any other design or shape. Also, a logo, trademark or trade name or any other design or shaped can be affixed such as by stitching it to the surface of the flap 112. A Velcro® hoop and loop patch on the underside of flap 112 (not shown) mates with a Velcro® hoop and loop patch on section 20 (not shown) on the bottom of the temple portion of the crown near the edge of visor 14.

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Figure 14 is a view of the adjustable baseball hat 10 of Figs 10A & 10B of the present invention viewed from within the hat looking towards the top of the crown. The adjustable clasp 110 is shown in an open position. Attached to flap 112 is one of the two parts of a Velcro® hook and loop strap 130. The mating Velcro® hook and loop strap 132 is attached on the outside of the temple triangle or panel 36. A sweatband 134 is attached, such as by stitching, at the front of the hat along the inner circumference of the crown. Another sweatband 136 is also affixed along the inner circumference of the crown. In the preferred embodiment the end 138 of sweatband 134 terminates at approximately the beginning of the flap 112 before the Velcro® hook and loop strap 130. Similarly, the end 140 of sweatband 136 terminates before the location of Velcro® hook and loop strap 132. In other words, there is an absence of a sweatband along the circumference of the hat 10 underneath the clasp 110. The purpose of this is to keep the bulk of the hat to a minimum in the area of the flap 112 to give the hat a thin and natural appearance. Of course, the sweatband can be extended into the region under the flap if desired.